



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

get it. But tuberculosis. If she got little or no tuberculosis—why—well—well *tuberculosis!* Well, what of tuberculosis? Tuberculosis *must* be taken care of.

I have been nursing for twenty years (a proud record) and I have seen tuberculosis file down these two decades in a procession as unbroken and as appealing as a "bread line." For three years I have done nothing but tuberculosis work and I am not talking at random when I say that tuberculosis must be taken care of. And I do hereby raise my voice in protest and appeal to the state boards of examiners of nurses (who are actually setting the pace for the rest of us) in protest against the almost utter ignoring of tuberculosis in state examinations, and in appeal that this great subject shall be brought to its rightful place as an indispensable part of the equipment of a duly "registered nurse."

State Sanatorium, Wales, Wis.

GRACE HOLMES, R.N.

#### THE QUINTON POLYCLINIC IN LONDON

DEAR EDITOR: The exceedingly hot summer in London has had the same effect upon the little babies as it has at home—over six hundred a week dying from infantile diarrhoea because their mothers did not know how to take care of them.

A charitable dispensary has recently been opened in Poland Street, Soho, just off Oxford Street, through the generosity of Mr. Otto Beit, the South African millionaire, to give London babies an opportunity of obtaining the sea-water cure—the "Quinton Isotonic Plasma"—a cure which has saved thousands of infant lives in France in the past seven years.

M. Quinton, a professor of physiology in the College de France, working on the theories explained in the accompanying pamphlet, established a dispensary in Paris, primarily for the treatment of gastro-enteritis in infants, by this sea-water cure.

All the staff, medical and nursing, at Poland Street have had training in Paris, and on the day of our visit Professor Quinton himself was present, keenly interested in what was being done.

Babies and mothers by the score, waiting wistfully and hopefully for examination and treatment, dressed as only London mothers and babies would be dressed with the thermometer at 90° in the shade, or coming away full of happiness, were in the waiting-rooms.

After examination the treatment is given, according to the doctor's direction, by a nurse in an adjoining room. The baby lies on its chest on its mother's knee, while the nurse, after carefully sterilizing the shoulder-blade, inserts the needle, which is attached to a long rubber tube connected with a bottle holding about a pint of fluid. This bottle is hung above on the wall, and is marked off in cubic centimeters. About 50 centimeters are given to a young baby, generally twice a day. A simple collodion dressing is applied after the injection.

It is all very simple, but really marvellous. Cases almost comatose seem to respond at once, and the deaths among those treated have been only one per cent.

The need of after care was soon demonstrated, and to avoid carrying the children back and forth. An appeal soon brought the offer of an adjacent building with large lofts, and here were found about forty little ones. Some

have to be taken to the clinic several times a day. The mothers are allowed to remain with them, and thus receive training in their proper feeding.

Dr. Quinton puts much emphasis on the use of water—a bottle of pure water, unsweetened, between each two bottles of milk. In some cases rice water is prescribed.

The Isotonic Plasma is not prepared in London. It is taken from the Bay of Biscay, several miles from shore, and is mixed with pure distilled water, and bottled by a company that ships it to London from Paris.

Dr. E. Petree Hoyle, the enthusiastic secretary of the London Polyclinic, related some experiences of the treatment of eczema and other skin diseases, but their main efforts at present are confined to the babies under two years of age.

ANNIE DAMER.

London.

[From the pamphlets sent by Miss Damer with her letter we quote Dr. Quinton's theory.—Ed.]

“After establishing the fact that the first occurrence of animal life was in the sea and not on land, Quinton showed that the primordial oceans contained .8 per cent. of dissolved inorganic matter. That is, the fluid medium, in which the earliest organisms lived and moved and had their being, which provided nutriment and environment for them, was of this degree of concentration.

“Elementary physiology teaches that the cells of which all bodies are composed are bathed in a fluid medium which is derived from the blood vessels. This fluid medium, which nourishes all the cells of the body, has also a saline concentration of .8 per cent. That is, the concentration of the fluid in which primordial organisms flourished, is identical with that which bathes the cellular structures of nineteenth century organisms.

“So much for concentration; now for composition. We investigate the other end of the chain of life—the chemical composition of present-day living beings, and of present-day marine fluid as we find it in uncontaminated sea-water. The parallel continues to work out: for the same chemical elements, in character and number, which constitute the structure of animals, are also those which, item for item, are found in sea-water as we know it. The difference between old-time and present-day sea-water is in its concentration; and this will be referred to later.

“Such generalizations as these could not fail to have important therapeutic deductions. If the complex solution of a certain saline concentration known as the sea-water of primordial times exercised a favorable influence upon cell-life then, why not similar fluid of a similar saline concentration now? The question was put to the test; the results came out exactly as expected. Uncontaminated sea-water, made ‘isotonic’ with the circulating fluid in man, *has* a potent, far-reaching and highly beneficial influence on the human body in many forms of disease.”]